



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Robert D. Vance, Secretary

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CONTACT: Dick Brown
502-564-5525

State Division of Fire Protection, Kidde Co., Local Fire Departments Team Up to Install Smoke Detectors in Residences

Goal to Increase Awareness, Protect Families

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (Jan. 22, 2013) –The Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet's Division of Fire Protection today announced a partnership with the Kidde Co. and the Pike County Firefighters Association to install 250 smoke detectors in homes throughout Pike County.

The Kidde Co., located in Mebane, N.C., is a manufacturer of fire safety products including smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguishers and has donated the smoke detectors.

"We thank the Kidde Co. for stepping forward to provide these smoke alarms and for helping increase awareness of the importance of installing smoke detectors in residences," said William Swope, director of the Division of Fire Prevention which is part of the Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction.

According to Swope, Kidde Co. is giving the smoke detectors to the Pike County Firefighters Association for distribution and installation. "The association will work with Pike County Schools to identify households that need smoke detectors. These smoke detectors will not just be handed out, but will be installed in area homes to ensure that they are where they should be and are in good working order," said Swope.

Swope says all Kentuckians should keep in mind the following safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises. Install smoke alarms, following manufacturer's instructions, high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.

- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10-years-old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has an alarm silencing button. An alarm silencing button will reduce the alarm’s sensitivity for a short period of time.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms.

Smoke alarms are just one component in a complete fire safety home escape plan, says Swope.

“Kentucky families should take time together to map out a plan for escaping a home fire that includes two emergency exits and then, practice the plan.”

Here is how to get started:

1. Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
2. Visit each room. Find two ways out.
3. All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
4. Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
5. Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
6. Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
7. Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
8. Practice, practice and practice your home escape plan.

Swope reiterated that during the winter months, you can’t talk about fire safety without talking about heating equipment, including furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and portable heaters.

“Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment and remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed,” he said.

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